



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

SEP 30 2007

Ms. Cheryl A. Walsh
Director
Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
801 West 10th Street, Suite A
Juneau, AK 99801-1894

James Beck, Executive Director
Suite 105
121 West Fireweed Lane
Anchorage, AK 99503

Ms. Walsh and Mr. Beck:

The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) acknowledges your letter of September 22, 2007 transmitting the FY 2008 – 2010 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) in the form of the signed assurances (Part I) and narratives (Part II), in compliance with Title VII, Section 704 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (the act).

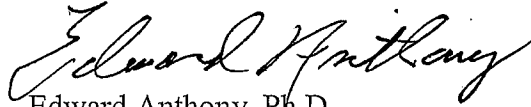
Alaska's SPIL submission, along with the Lobbying Certification, were reviewed to ensure compliance with the act's statutory provisions and implementing regulations. Based on this review, RSA has approved the SPIL and will make available to Alaska its Title VII funds for FY 2008 on October 1, 2007.

If you or your staff have questions regarding RSA's review or approval of the SPIL, please contact your state liaison, Regina Luster, at (202) 245-6309 or regina.luster@ed.gov.

Page 2 – Ms. Walsh and Mr. Beck

We appreciate your continuing efforts to promote the independent living, empowerment and community integration of individuals with significant disabilities in your state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edward Anthony".

Edward Anthony, Ph.D.

Delegated the authority to perform
The functions of Commissioner for the
Rehabilitation Services Administration

cc: Regina Luster

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Applicants must review the requirements for certification regarding lobbying included in the regulations cited below before completing this form. Applicants must sign this form to comply with the certification requirements under 34 CFR Part 82, "New Restrictions on Lobbying." This certification is a material representation of fact upon which the Department of Education relies when it makes a grant or enters into a cooperative agreement.

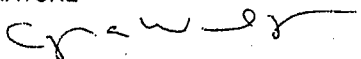
As required by Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, and implemented at 34 CFR Part 82, for persons entering into a Federal contract, grant or cooperative agreement over \$100,000, as defined at 34 CFR Part 82, Sections 82.105 and 82.110, the applicant certifies that:

(a) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making of any Federal grant, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal grant or cooperative agreement;

(b) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal grant or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions;

(c) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subgrants and contracts under grants and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above certification.

NAME OF APPLICANT	PR/AWARD NUMBER AND / OR PROJECT NAME
Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	
PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	
Cheryl A. Walsh Director	
SIGNATURE	DATE
	9/22/2007

ALASKA STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING
COUNCIL, INC.



1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Ste. 206
Anchorage, AK 99503

Toll Free 1 888 294 7452
Phone 907 263-2092
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September 22, 2007

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
Attention: Roslyn Thompson
550 12th Street SW
PCP Room 5050
Washington, DC 20202-2800

Attached please find Alaska's proposed 2008 -2010 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The Statewide Independent Living Council of Alaska (SILC) and the state Division of Vocational (DVR) worked together in developing this new state plan. Together we held public meetings, interviewed collaborative partners, and garnered feedback directly from consumers via surveys and public testimony. The SILC and DVR approved this document at a joint meeting held June 28, 2007.

As the authorized representative for the DSU I request that this SPIL and all attachments regarding the SPIL for Alaska be accepted, reviewed and approved. If you have any questions regarding the SPIL or its contents, please contact the Executive Director of the SILC, Patrick Reinhart at 907.263.2092 or preinhart.silc@gci.net.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Walsh, Director
Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Cc/ Jim Beck, SILC Chair

Final

STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL)

Chapter 1, Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended

**STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES (SILS) PROGRAM
PART B**

**CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL) PROGRAM
PART C**

FISCAL YEARS 2008 - 2010

Effective Date: October 1, 2007

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PART I: Assurances

State of: Alaska

Section 1: Legal Basis and Certifications

- 1.1 The designated State unit (DSU) eligible to submit the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL or the plan) and authorized under State law to perform the functions of the State under the State Independent Living Services (SILS) and Centers for Independent Living (CIL) programs is the Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. 34 CFR 76.104(a)(1) and (2); 34 CFR 364.22(a)
- 1.2 The separate State agency eligible to submit the plan and authorized under State law to provide vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to individuals who are blind is N/A. 34 CFR 76.104(a)(1) and (2); 34 CFR 364.20(d) and 364.22(c)
- 1.3 The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) that meets the requirements of section 705 of the Act and is authorized to perform the functions outlined in section 705(c) of the Act in the State is Alaska State Independent Living Council. 34 CFR 364.21(a)
- 1.4 The DSU and, if applicable, the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, and the SILC are authorized to jointly develop, sign and submit this SPIL on behalf of the State, and have adopted or otherwise formally approved the SPIL. 34 CFR 76.104(a)(7); 34 CFR 364.20(c) and (d)
- 1.5 The DSU, and, if applicable, the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, may legally carry out each provision of the plan and will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the three-year period it receives funding under the SPIL. 34 CFR 76.104; 34 CFR 80.11(c)
- 1.6 The SPIL is the basis for State operation and administration of the program. All provisions of the SPIL plan are consistent with State law. 34 CFR 76.104(a)(4) and (8)
- 1.7 The representative(s) of the DSU and, if applicable, of the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, who has/have the authority under State law to receive, hold, and disburse Federal funds made available under the SPIL and to submit the SPIL jointly with the SILC chairperson is Gale Vandor, Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. CFR 76.104(a)(5) and (6)

Section 2: SPIL Development

- 2.1 The plan shall be reviewed and revised not less than once every three years, to ensure the existence of appropriate planning, financial support and coordination,

and other assistance to appropriately address, on a statewide and comprehensive basis, the needs in the State for:

- (A) The provision of State independent living services;
- (B) The development and support of a statewide network of centers for independent living; and
- (C) Working relationships between programs providing independent living services and independent living centers, the vocational rehabilitation program established under title I, and other programs providing services for individuals with disabilities. *34 CFR 364.20(f)*

2.2 The DSU and SILC conduct public meetings to provide all segments of the public, including interested groups, organizations and individuals, an opportunity to comment on the State plan prior to its submission to the Commissioner and on any revisions to the approved State plan. *34 CFR 20(g)(1)*

2.3 The DSU and SILC establish and maintain a written description of procedures for conducting public meetings in accordance with the following requirements:

The DSU and SILC shall provide:

- i. Appropriate and sufficient notice of the public meetings (that is, at least 30 days prior to the public meeting through various media available to the general public, such as newspapers and public service announcements, and through specific contacts with appropriate constituency groups and organizations identified by the DSU and SILC);
- ii. Reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication in the conduct of the public meetings, including providing sign language interpreters and audio-loops; and
- iii. Public meeting notices, written material provided prior to or at the public meetings, and the approved State plan in accessible formats for individuals who rely on alternative modes of communication. *34 CFR 364.20(g)(2)*

2.4 At the public meetings to develop the State plan, the DSU and SILC identify those provisions in the SPIL that are State-imposed requirements beyond what would be required to comply with the regulations in 34 CFR parts 364, 365, 366, and 367. *34 CFR 364.20(h)*

2.5 The DSU will seek to incorporate into and describe in the State plan any new methods or approaches for the provision of IL services to older individuals who are blind that are developed under a project funded under chapter 2 of title VII of the Act and that the DSU determines to be effective. *34 CFR 364.28*

2.6 The DSU and SILC actively consult, as appropriate, in the development of the State plan with the director of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) authorized under section 112 of the Act. *34 CFR 364.20(e)*

Section 3: Independent Living Services

- 3.1 The State, directly or through grants or contracts, will provide IL services with Federal, State, or other funds. 34 CFR 364.43(b)
- 3.2 Independent living services shall be provided to individuals with significant disabilities in accordance with an independent living plan mutually agreed upon by an appropriate staff member of the service provider and the individual, unless the individual signs a waiver stating that such a plan is unnecessary. 34 CFR 364.43(c)
- 3.3 All service providers will use formats that are accessible to notify individuals seeking or receiving IL services under chapter 1 of title VII about:
 - (a) The availability of the CAP authorized by section 112 of the Act;
 - (b) The purposes of the services provided under the CAP; and
 - (c) How to contact the CAP. 34 CFR 364.30
- 3.4 Participating service providers meet all applicable State licensure or certification requirements. 34 CFR 365.31(c)

Section 4: Eligibility

- 4.1 Any individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), is eligible for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs authorized under chapter 1 of title VII of the Act. Any individual may seek information about IL services under these programs and request referral to other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities, as appropriate. The determination of an individual's eligibility for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs meets the requirements of 34 CFR 364.51. 34 CFR 364.40(a), (b) and (c)
- 4.2 Service providers apply eligibility requirements without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion or type of significant disability of the individual applying for IL services. 34 CFR 364.41(a)
- 4.3 Service providers do not impose any State or local residence requirement that excludes any individual who is present in the State and who is otherwise eligible for IL services from receiving IL services. 34 CFR 364.41(b)

Section 5: Staffing Requirements

- 5.1 Service provider staff includes personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of IL services and in the development and support of centers. 34 CFR 364.23(a)
- 5.2 To the maximum extent feasible, a service provider makes available personnel able to communicate:

(1) With individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication, such as manual communication, nonverbal communication devices, Braille or audio tapes, and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act and (2) in the native languages of individuals with significant disabilities whose English proficiency is limited and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act. 34 CFR 364.23(b)

5.3 Service providers establish and maintain a program of staff development for all classes of positions involved in providing IL services and, if appropriate, in administering the CIL program. The staff development programs emphasize improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of IL services, including knowledge of and practice in the IL philosophy. 34 CFR 364.24

5.4 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with significant disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act. 34 CFR 364.31

Section 6: Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting

6.1 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will comply with applicable EDGAR fiscal and accounting requirements and will adopt those fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of and accounting for those funds. 34 CFR 364.34

Section 7: Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

7.1 In addition to complying with applicable EDGAR recordkeeping requirements, all recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will maintain records that fully disclose and document:

- a) The amount and disposition by the recipient of that financial assistance;
- b) The total cost of the project or undertaking in connection with which the financial assistance is given or used;
- c) The amount of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources;
- d) Compliance with the requirements of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act and Part 364 of the regulations; and
- e) Other information that the Commissioner determines to be appropriate to facilitate an effective audit. 34 CFR 364.35(a) and (b)

7.2 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will submit reports that the Commissioner determines to be appropriate with respect to the records that are required by 34 CFR 364.35 and .36

7.3 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 and chapter 2 of title VII of the Act will provide access to the Commissioner and the Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, to the records listed in 34 CFR 364.37 for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations and compliance reviews. 34 CFR 364.37

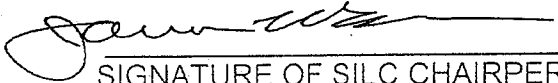
Section 8: Protection, Use and Release of Personal Information

8.1 Each service provider will adopt and implement policies and procedures to safeguard the confidentiality of all personal information, including photographs and lists of names in accordance with the requirements of 34 CFR 364.56(a)(1-6). 34 CFR 364.56(a)

Section 9: Signatures

After having carefully reviewed all of the assurance in sections 1 – 8 of this SPIL, the undersigned hereby affirm that the State of Alaska is in compliance and will remain in compliance with the aforementioned assurances during the three-year period of this SPIL.

The effective date of this SPIL is: October 1, 2007



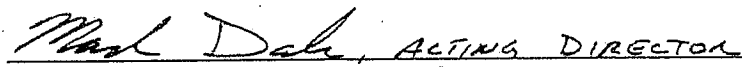
SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

6-29-07

DATE

James Beck

NAME OF SILC CHAIRPERSON



SIGNATURE OF DSU DIRECTOR

MARK DALE

6-29-07

DATE

Gale Sinnott, Director

NAME AND TITLE OF DSU DIRECTOR

Part II: Narrative

1.1 Goals and Mission – 34 CFR 364.42(b)(1)

1.1A Describe the overall goals and mission of the State's IL programs and services. The SPIL must address the goals and mission of both the SILS and the CIL programs.

Independent Living and Guiding Principles

The federal Rehabilitation Act proclaims:

"Disability is a natural part of human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to live independently, enjoy self-determination, make choices, contribute to society, pursue meaningful careers, and enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of American society....

"The goals of the Nation properly include the goal of providing individuals with disabilities with the tools necessary to (1) make informed choices and decisions; and (2) achieve equality of opportunity, full inclusion and integration in society, employment, independent living, and economic and social self-sufficiency."

As established under the Rehabilitation Act and Alaska Statute, 47.80.03, the mission of Alaska's independent living program is to promote the philosophy of independent living, including a philosophy of consumer control, peer-support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy in order to maximize opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of society.

Since the Alaska SILC's inception in 1992, it has been actively engaged in activities that assist in providing Alaskans with disabilities a greater voice in obtaining services that are consumer-responsive, cost-effective and community-based. Therefore, Council members and staff have committed to the following responsibilities in relation to this three year State Plan:

- Develop, sign and submit, in cooperation with the Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for people with disabilities. The SILC will monitor, review and evaluate the implementation of the SPIL on an ongoing basis.
- Support Alaska's centers for independent living (CILs) and advocate for independent living (IL) services provided through state and federal programs for people with disabilities.

- Gather and disseminate information, conduct studies and analyses, develop model policies, conduct training on IL philosophy, outreach to un-served and underserved populations, and work to expand and improve IL services.
- Develop a plan for the provision of resources to the SILC to carry out its duties and responsibilities under state and federal law.
- Develop and pursue a public policy agenda that results in positive systemic change for people with disabilities everywhere.

It is the vision of the Alaska SILC to realize the philosophy of independent living in local communities where people with disabilities reside. The SILC's goal is to maximize opportunities and to incorporate people with disabilities into all walks of life by empowering them through individual and systems change. Changes in the individual include recognizing and using the power of peer support and self-help groups to raise awareness that self-determination is within reach. Systems change includes strengthened public policies for equal access and further utilization of individual and system advocacy. Pursuing this mission and vision involves – within the limits of available resources – the provision of technical assistance and funding to:

- Engage consumers, families, their advocates, related organizations and agencies in working as partners to continuously improve cooperation, coordination, working relationships, and collaboration in achieving the full integration and inclusion of people with disabilities.
- Provide, expand, and improve the delivery of quality IL supports and services, establishing a statewide capacity to meet the diverse needs of people with disabilities in Alaska.
- Develop and support a statewide network of community-based, consumer-controlled, non-profit Centers for Independent Living and other IL partners.

Independent Living Priorities

The SILC has adopted the following independent living priorities for the purposes of this state plan for independent living and shall adjust them as necessary during the life of the SPIL:

Under System's Advocacy

- 1) Improve systems in rural Alaska to be more consistent with IL philosophy.
- 2) Increase opportunities for employment of persons with disabilities.
- 3) Provide adequate healthcare for persons with disabilities.
- 4) Improve transportation options for persons with disabilities.
- 5) Provide opportunities for youth with disabilities leaving school to learn adequate IL skills and "soft" work skills.

- 6) Increase and improve housing options for persons with disabilities, including home ownership, accessible apartments, and options for home modifications to maintain independence and designers and builders who understand and practice "universal design".
- 7) Persons with disabilities have the information and the opportunity to live in the community of their choice with the supports they need.
- 8) Provide IL philosophy training for staff of other organizations that provide services for persons with disabilities.
- 9) Decrease the delay in determination of Social Security disability eligibility.

Under Building Capacity of the Center for Independent Living Network

- 1) CILS are actively involved in work with youth with disabilities so they have IL skills and soft work skills when they leave high school.
- 2) There is a full array of IL services available to all communities and Alaskans including persons living in rural areas and underserved cultural populations.
- 3) CILs have the capacity to assist communities with efforts that provide residents with disabilities to stay in the community and develop options for supports.
- 4) CILS are more directly involved in finding housing supports for persons with disabilities.
- 5) CILS have the resources available to provide continued training for their own staff and partner organizations.
- 6) All CILS have access to a comprehensive website which is a resource for staff training, consumer information and referral, and access to other services that can be utilized by staff and consumers.

Based on these priorities the SILC will develop an annual "Action Plan" that outlines specific steps and activities to be undertaken by the IL partners together. A "Year One Action Plan" is attached. The SILC and DVR will produce a "Year Two" and "Year Three" Action plan that has taken into account progress made during "Year One" and/or new issues and priorities as they develop.

1.2A OBJECTIVES, GOALS, PERFORMANCE MEASURES, ACTIVITIES AND BENCHMARKS, TIMELINES

YEAR ONE ACTION PLAN

Objective	Goal	Performance Measures	Activities and Benchmarks	Timeline
Rural IL Service Delivery Rural/Remote IL Service Delivery	Alaskans with disabilities in rural and remote regions of the state have access to independent living services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -# of CIL/Rural Partner collaborations and/or agreements. -#of CIL consumers from rural areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -SILC to host 3rd Annual Rural Partners Meeting -SILC and CILs will provide IL philosophy training to rural providers. -SILC and CILs develop strategic advocacy plan with Rural providers on new funding for IL services in underserved areas -SILC will develop Network of Care web tool for rural providers to utilize in gaining access to services. -CILs to report on progress to individual outreach goals. - SILC Outreach Committee meets with interested parties to develop action plan - SILC will develop comprehensive Plan for new rural CIL developed from action plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct-Dec. Year Round Oct-Dec. with follow up Year Round Quarterly Oct-Dec Jan-Sept
	Create a comprehensive plan to develop a new CIL in a Southwestern Alaskan Community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -preliminary action steps written to develop plan - Stakeholder groups from one or more rural/ remote communities interested in participating in the planning a CIL will be established. - CIL plan will include provisions for a locally grown non profit with mentorship and training from existing CILs and the SILC 		

Youth Empowerment	Young Alaskans with disabilities have opportunities to learn independent living and pre-vocational or work ready skills.	<p>- The plan will include potential local, state & private funding sources.</p> <p>-# youth sponsored to attend leadership training activities</p> <p>-# youth with disabilities involved with CIL projects or activities</p> <p>-# Youth members on SILC Empowerment Committee</p> <p>-# of joint case files between DVR</p>	<p>-SILC/CILs to sponsor youth to attend national leadership training opportunities such as APRIL or NCIL.</p> <p>-YEC to meet at least 4 times during the year and develop their own goals.</p> <p>-CILS Youth in Transition or other youth related projects funded.</p>	<p>Oct. and May</p> <p>Quarterly</p> <p>Year Round</p>
Employment	The employment rate for Alaskans with disabilities improves significantly.	<p>-# Alaskans with disabilities who have jobs or are enrolled in vocational training.</p> <p>-# of successful cases between CILs and DVR</p> <p>-# of Alaskans enrolled in the Medicaid Buy-In Program.</p>	<p>-DVR and TVR programs to share information on employment successes.</p> <p>-DVR and SILC will host teleconference training on the utilization of the approved Social Security Trust Fund Reimbursement policy for DVR counselors and CIL staff.</p> <p>-The SILC will set up a meeting with partners to review the state's Medicaid Buy-In program and to develop recommendations to policymakers for improvement.</p>	<p>Quarterly</p> <p>Winter</p> <p>Oct.-Dec.</p>
Transportation	Alaskans with disabilities have safe, affordable transportation options	-# of persons with disabilities utilizing community transportation	-SILC and CILs advocate for state investment into community transportation programs.	Oct-May

	available.	options -# Mobility options started where none exist now. -# of persons with disabilities who own their own vehicle. -# of small airports that have alternative transfer systems in place.	<p>-Research options for creating a micro accessible transportation loan and grant programs for persons who want to own their own vehicle.</p> <p>-The SILC working with the Alaska Mobility Coalition identify the areas in the state with the greatest need for services.</p> <p>-SILC and CILs will advocate for more accessible taxi-cabs in communities where none exist and voucher programs for seniors and persons with disabilities.</p> <p>-SILC and CILs will advocate for plane access for persons with mobility impairments in rural airports and small planes.</p>	<p>June</p> <p>June-July</p> <p>Year Round</p> <p>Year round</p>
Housing	Alaskans with disabilities have safe and affordable housing options in the community.	<p>-# of persons with disabilities who own their own home.</p> <p>-# of accessible rental properties.</p> <p>-# of Universal Designed homes.</p>	<p>-The SILC shall partner with the Trust and other groups to approve new Housing Trust initiative.</p> <p>-The SILC will advocate for more families to be on Sec. 8 Home Ownership program.</p> <p>-The SILC and CILs will partner with AHFC on Fair Housing training.</p> <p>-The SILC will advocate for the Alaska Homebuilders Association to approve a course on Universal Design.</p>	<p>Year Round</p> <p>March-May Year Round</p> <p>Sept</p> <p>Year Round</p>

			<p>-The SILC and CILs will advocate for more home modification and emergency housing assistance funds.</p> <p>-The SILC and CILs will advocate for a rural portable ramp building project.</p> <p>-The SILC and CILs will seek partnership opportunities with rural housing authorities.</p>	Oct-Dec.
<p>Access to Home and Community Supports</p>	<p>Alaskans with disabilities have quality community supports and services available to them which allow them to live independently.</p>	<p>-# of persons on HCBS waivers vs. living in an institution</p> <p>- # of successful transition from nursing homes and other institutions.</p> <p>-Amount of public funding spent on institutional care vs. home and community based care goes down.</p> <p>-number of Aging and Disability Resource Centers.</p>	<p>-The SILC and CILs will advocate for increase in HCBS rates and PCA which have been stagnant for 10 years.</p> <p>-The CILs will work closer with the state Nursing Facility Transition Coordinator.</p> <p>-The SILC shall review and comment on all Certificate of Need Applications for additional skill nursing beds or large assisted living homes.</p> <p>-The SILC and CILs will advocate for more native and/or rural healthcare providers pick up PCA, Chore or other home services.</p> <p>-The SILC will assist in development of new ADRC's in hub communities throughout the state following the prototype and philosophy of the Alaskan CIL based ADRC's.</p>	<p>Oct-May</p> <p>Year Round</p> <p>As Needed</p> <p>Year Round</p> <p>Year Round</p>

<p>Access to Information and Emergency Preparedness</p>	<p>Alaskans with disabilities and service providers have up-to-date information regarding all long-term care supports and services available and understand the challenges and options they may face during a local or statewide emergency.</p>	<p>-# and accuracy of services listed on SILC's Network of Care Website. -#of presentations about Network of Care. -# of hits on Network of Care site. # of consumers who develop an emergency back-up plan as part of their ILP.</p>	<p>-The SILC will maintain and keep up to date the Aging and Independence Network of Care website. -The SILC will write articles in Senior Voice and mainstream publications about the new site. -The SILC shall provide training on the new site to groups requesting it. -The SILC will provide presentations about the new site at major in-state conferences on health, seniors, and/or disability subjects, as well as hospitals and other health care facilities. -The SILC and CILs will send disability advocates to local and state meetings on emergency response.</p>	<p>Oct. Year Round Year Round Year Round Year Round Year Round</p>
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1.2B Outreach to unserved or underserved populations

Describe the steps planned regarding outreach to populations in the State that are unserved or underserved by programs under title VII, including minority groups and urban and rural populations. This section of the SPIL must:

- *Identify the populations to be designated for targeted outreach efforts;*
- *Identify the geographic areas (i.e., communities) in which the targeted populations reside; and*
- *Describe how the needs of individuals with significant disabilities from minority group backgrounds will be addressed.*

“Un-served” and “underserved” groups may mean communities, neighborhoods, and/or ethnic, cultural, socioeconomic, or specific disability groups, whether they are located in urban or rural areas of the state. In particular, based upon public testimony and input received, the state has identified the following, potentially underserved groups, which will be targeted for outreach efforts both by the SILC and CILs.

- Youth
- Rural and remote areas
- Alaska Natives/American Indians
- Seniors/Elders
- Other Minorities
- Veterans
- Persons with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI)

It should be noted that substantial progress has been made during the last three years in outreach to rural and remote communities through a special “earmark” grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration. In addition, the SILC has an “Outreach Committee” and a “Youth Empowerment Committee” specifically to target needed outreach efforts.

In addition, the SILC and CILs together are launching a statewide website call Alaska Network of Care in mid 2007 in an effort to list all independent living and senior/elder services across the state for each region. It is expected that this website will not only facilitate the flow of information about independent living and other support services to more communities across the state, but will also help demonstrate the need for services where few exist now.

In addition, the State believes that more funding is needed for CILs to conduct significant outreach efforts to more fully address the independent living needs of persons with disabilities living in rural and remote communities. While CILs have specified regions of responsibility that currently cover the state (an issue currently being reviewed by the SILC), the reality is that not all IL services can be delivered to each and every person in every community across the state without significant increases in independent living resources. However, in an effort to partially address some of the outreach concerns, CILs are asked to submit three outreach objectives

as part of their continuation grant proposals for state funding. These activities may include but are not limited to the following:

- (a) Development and implementation of needs assessments, studies, interviews or new policies and procedures that further define unserved or underserved populations in their region.
- (b) Description of how they plan to provide services to already identified groups of unserved or underserved populations in their region, including the continuation of existing services or contracts that enable them to serve traditionally unserved or underserved populations in their region.

In addition, the SILC and DVR will continue to work with Alaska's Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation programs and other rural partners and groups in an effort to identify significant gaps in independent living services, and advocate for needed federal, state and/or other funds to address these gaps. For instance, as spelled out in the "Action Plan" the SILC will develop a plan to grow and fund a new Center for Independent Living in a Southwestern Alaska Community. Whether this Center develops out of satellite office of an existing CIL, or is wholly developed as a new entity will be determined through the planning process to be undergone during year one of the SPIL period.

1.3 Financial Plan – 34 CFR 364.42(a) (2) and (3); 34 CFR 364.29

Describe in sections 1.3A and 1.3B, below, the financial plan for the use of Federal and non-Federal funds to meet the SPIL objectives.

1.3A Financial Plan Tables

Complete the financial plan tables covering years 1, 2 and 3 of this SPIL. For each funding source, provide estimated dollar amounts anticipated for the applicable uses. The financial plan table should include only those funding sources and amounts that are intended to support one or more of the objectives identified in section 1.2 of the SPIL. To the extent possible, the tables and narratives must reflect the applicable financial information from centers for independent living. Refer to the SPIL Instructions for additional information about completing the financial tables and narratives.

- Insert additional rows for the specific funding sources and amounts expected within the categories of Other Federal Funds and Non-Federal Funds.*

Year 1

Sources	Approximate Funding Amounts and Uses			
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities
Title VII Funds				
Chapter 1, Part B	\$ 10,000		\$ 291,000	
Chapter 1, Part C			\$ 784,879	
Chapter 2, Individuals Who are Older Blind		\$ 225,000		
Other Federal Funds				
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$ 166,000			
Other- AoA/CMS-ADRC grants	\$ 77,083		\$ 150,000	
Non-Federal Funds				
State Funds		\$ 44,600	\$ 779,200	
Other –ADRC Grant Matches			\$ 57,000	

Year 2

Sources	Approximate Funding Amounts and Uses			
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities
Title VII Funds				
Chapter 1, Part B	\$ 10,505		\$ 290,495	
Chapter 1, Part C			\$ 784,879	
Chapter 2, Individuals Who are Older Blind		\$ 225,000		
Other Federal Funds				
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$ 170,000			
Other- AoA/CMS-ADRC grants	\$ 30,000		\$ 150,000	
Non-Federal Funds				
State Funds		\$ 44,600	\$ 779,200	
Other –ADRC Grant Matches			\$ 125,000	

Year 3

Sources	Approximate Funding Amounts and Uses			
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities
Title VII Funds				
Chapter 1, Part B	\$ 10,935		\$ 290,065	
Chapter 1, Part C			\$ 784,879	
Chapter 2, Individuals Who are Older Blind		\$ 225,000		
Other Federal Funds				
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$ 175,000			
Other- AoA/CMS-ADRC grants			\$ 0	
Non-Federal Funds				
State Funds		\$ 44,600	\$ 779,200	
Other –ADRC Grant Matches			\$ 300,000	

1.3B Financial Plan Narratives

1.3B (1) Specify how the part B, part C and chapter 2 (Older Blind) funds, if applicable, will further the SPIL objectives.

1.3B(2) Describe efforts to coordinate Federal and State funding for centers and IL services, including the amounts, sources and purposes of the funding to be coordinated.

The State of Alaska invests in its centers for independent living and has for over 20 years. In FY 08 the state general fund contribution to support the operations of Alaska's CILs is estimated to be \$764,900, up from \$467,800 in FY05. This represents a nearly 40% increase. Despite gains and successes the amount of federal funding available for IL has actually decreased, netting only a 20% increase in funding to support Alaska's network of centers in three years. In addition, through grants and other efforts by the SILC, each Center has received additional funding to support new initiatives and expanded services. Below are the estimated levels of funding and award levels for each CIL in FY08.

CIL Resource Allocation Plan (FY 2008):

\$ 784,869	Federal Part C
\$ 384,100	Federal Part B & State Match minus SILC Allocation
\$ <u>764,900</u>	State General Funds

\$ 1,933,869 Total Anticipated Resources for FY 2008 (Estimate)

CIL Funding: Alaska base funding for CILS was originally determined by population estimates for each Center's region of responsibility. However, each CIL has been above the baseline established more than five years ago. Since then any increases in funding have been divided among the CILs according to the percent of funding they had the prior year. For instance, if there was a 5% increase in funding one year, then each CIL received a 5% increase. Likewise, when decreases occurred with any of the state or federal sources, the decrease was absorbed by all centers. It is the intent of this plan to continue this practice for the duration of the SPIL.

Utilizing the same three sources described above, the total FY 07 funding level available for distribution to CILs was \$1,933,869. Therefore, each Center will receive a small commensurate increase in funding in FY08 of approximately 9% of their state and Part B funds.

Estimated CIL Funding Levels for FY 2008:

\$1,142,214	Access Alaska –Approximately \$434,214 will come from federal Part C dollars and \$708,000 from State General Funds.
413,055	Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL) –Approximately \$350,655 will come from federal Part C dollars and \$62,400 from state General Funds.
314,000	Kenai Peninsula Independent Living Center (KPILC) – Because KPILC is not a federally funded Part C center \$314,000 will come from federal Part B and state General Funds combined.
\$63,800	Arctic Access (KOTZ) – Because Arctic Access is not a federally funded Part C Center \$63,800 will come from federal Part B and state General Funds combined.

\$1,933,069

Future Funding

Future Decreases in Funding: Should any decreases in federal and/or state funding occur during any year of the SPIL, the SILC and DSU will first determine if there are any other funds that may be utilized to make up the difference. If not, each CIL will receive a commensurate decrease in funding on an equal percentage basis.

Future Increases in Funding – Federal Part B and/or State IL funds: Should any increases in federal Part B and/or state funding occur, or should Part B and or state funds become available as the result of increases in Part C funding, the CILS will receive a commensurate increase in funding on an equal percentage basis. Should an overall increase of \$50,000 or more occur in any one fiscal year, the SILC and DSU shall meet and decide how to utilize the funding and develop and amendment to the SPIL as necessary.

Increases in Funding – Federal Part C funds: Should there be an increase in Alaska's federal Part C allocation during the period of this SPIL, the following shall occur:

A) Less than \$50,000 annually – The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) shall distribute the funding to Alaska's federally funded CILs, currently Access Alaska and SAIL, after calculating a cost of living increase for each grantee per their requirements. A competition for funding or further clarification by the SILC and DVR shall not be required for the balance of the funds, which will be distributed equally to both Access Alaska and SAIL. However, it is the intention of this SPIL that all Alaskan CILs will benefit from any increases in federal Part C dollars. Therefore, whatever the percentage is that the new federal Part C funding is over the total amount of federal Part C, plus Part B and State funds, this will be the amount every CIL shall benefit. The State will accomplish this by shifting state funding from the federally funded CILs to state funded CILs.

B) More than \$50,000 annually: Should \$50,000 or more in federal Part C funds become available in any fiscal year during the period of this State Plan, the SILC and DVR will develop a plan for the distribution of these resources and develop an amendment to the State Plan and submit to RSA. Options that may be considered are: 1) Converting one or more of our federal Part B and state funded CILs to a federally funded CIL; 2) Equalized distribution to the federally funded CILs; 3) Creating a new CIL region and opening a competition for funding; and/or 4) Implement a statewide needs assessment to determine the greatest need. Once notified by RSA of any increase of this magnitude, the SILC and DVR shall provide an amendment to the SPIL to RSA within 90 days.

1.3B(3) Describe any in-kind resources including plant, equipment or services to be provided in support of the SILC resource plan, IL services, general CIL operations and/or other SPIL objectives.

All Alaska's CILs have demonstrated a great skill in leveraging their funding to garner a great many in-kind supports such as donated mobility equipment, the labor of service groups and individuals in providing home modifications, and the use of volunteers wherever possible. The SILC and DSU can only encourage them to continue their efforts to garner community support in effort to not only stretch the limited dollars available to them but to involve the community in their mission.

1.3B (4) Provide any additional information about the financial plan, as appropriate.

The Alaska SILC will continue its efforts to involve CILs in initiatives and grants that provide further resources for them to accomplish their organizational objectives. For instance, the SILC involved the all Alaska CILs in a national grant program to have them all become "Aging and Disability Resource Centers" (ADRC). As a result, in the past two years the SILC has been able to fund each CIL with \$45,000 additional dollars to support their Information and Referral functions. It is expected that this initiative will continue and the SILC will do everything it can to advocate for the Centers as it grows and develops further.

1.4 Compatibility with Title VII and the CIL Work plans – 34 CFR 364.42(c) and (e)

1.4A Describe how the SPIL objectives are consistent with and further the purpose of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act as stated in section 701 of the Act and 34 CFR 364.2.

1.4B Describe how, in developing the SPIL objectives, the DSU and the SILC considered and incorporated, where appropriate, the priorities and objectives established by centers for independent living under section 725(c)(4) of the Act.

This plan was developed with collaboration with all the Alaskan Centers for Independent Living. All Centers either have representation on the SILC it self (three) or the State Plan Development Committee (four). In addition, the SILC hosts monthly Networking Meetings whereby each of the Center directors participate.

1.5 Cooperation, Coordination, and Working Relationships among Various Entities – 34 CFR 364.26

Describe the steps that will be taken to maximize the cooperation, coordination and working relationships among the SILS program, the SILC, and centers; the DSU, other State agencies represented on the SILC and other councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues; and other public and private entities determined to be appropriate by the SILC.

– *The description must identify the entities with which the DSU and the SILC will cooperate and coordinate.*

The SILC and DSU work cooperatively on all efforts that affect the state's independent living program. The director of the Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Director of the Division of Senior and Disability Services are active members of the council and participants at SILC meetings. In addition, the SILC has official liaisons with several groups (see list below). The SILC works with these groups and several others in the planning of a biennial (sometimes annual) Disability Policy Summit whereby all disability related groups get together and develop joint policy directives and objectives that we can all agree to in an effort to support persons with disabilities in their own communities across the state. Below is a list of all the agencies, boards and commissions that the SILC has regular and ongoing contact with and attends many of their meetings, or vice-versa.

- Alaska Mental Health Trust (liaison)
- Governor's Committee on Employment and Rehabilitation (liaison)
- Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (liaison)
- Consortium of Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Programs (liaison)
- Alaska Commission on Aging
- Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education
- Alaska Traumatic Brain Injury Board
- Assistive Technology for Alaskans
- Senior Advocacy Coalition
- Alaska Center for Blind and Visually Impaired
- The Alaska Mobility Coalition

In addition, the SILC Chair, Mr. Jim Beck, and the Executive Director, Patrick Reinhart, are members of the board of directors of the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL). This helps the SILC and the entire network of centers in Alaska keep abreast of national issues that impact Alaskans with disabilities. Mr. Reinhart is also a member of the Region 10 RCEP Advisory Board out of Western Washington University, which coordinates IL training opportunities for Alaska and the other NW states.

1.6 Coordination of Services – 34 CFR 364.27

Describe how IL services funded under chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will be coordinated with and complement other services to avoid unnecessary duplication with other Federal, State, and local programs, including the OIB program authorized by chapter 2 of title VII of the Act, that provide IL- or VR-related services.

The SILC and DSU are actively involved in the coordination of IL services with all prospective service providers including the CILS in an effort to avoid unnecessary duplication of services with other federal, state and local programs through the efforts described in 1.5 above. Furthermore, the Alaska DSU administers and contracts out all the Older Independent Blind (OIB) funds to four non-profit agencies that are located throughout the state. One agency specializes in providing services only to individuals who are blind or visually impaired and the other three agencies are Centers for Independent Living that provides services to all eligible consumers. This allows for excellent coordination of Older Blind Services and for delivery of the full spectrum of IL and VR services.

Coordination will also take place with the eleven Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Programs that provide services to Alaskan Natives in very rural and remote areas of Alaska. Our SILC meets often with the DSU's State Rehabilitation Council and the Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Consortium. Service strategies, including the OIB goals and objectives and the delivery of services to the Older Blind in Alaska will be discussed and coordinated amongst these entities.

Particular emphasis will be place upon the OIB goals as outlined in the Alaska State Independent Living Plan 2008 – 2010, as follows:

- a) Ensure the involvement of older blind individuals in all aspects of program development, implementation and evaluation.
- b) Coordinate fiscal and programmatic resources and develop additional resources to provide independent living services to older blind individuals in Alaska.
- c) Provide activities to promote community awareness, involvement and assistance regarding older blind issues and the availability of independent living services for older Alaskans who are blind or visually impaired.
- d) Conduct outreach efforts to serve those who are unserved or underserved and those who reside in rural and remote areas.
- e) Provide an array of IL services to older blind Alaskans in their home communities.

1.7 Independent Living Services for Individuals who are Older Blind – 34 CFR 364.28

Describe how the DSU seeks to incorporate into, and describe in, the State plan any new methods or approaches for the provision of IL services to older individuals who are blind that are developed under the Older Individuals who are Blind(OIB) program and that the DSU determines to be effective.

The DSU utilizes a variety of methods to gather and disseminate information that impacts how IL services are delivered to individuals who are elderly and blind or visually impaired. One effective way the DSU gathers information is directly through public comment provided from individuals with disabilities and other service providers who reside throughout the state. Staff from the DSU also attend and participate in the annual Chapter 2 Program Manager's Conference where a wealth of information and examples of "best practices" and success stories are shared. The DSU provides funds for and invites other contractors to attend this conference. Information that influences the way OIB services are delivered is also shared through meetings facilitated by the DSU with three Centers for Independent Living. The DSU shares this information with the SILC through formal meetings that are held to develop and identify goals for the SPIL that impact services provided by other CILs, including those that do not receive OB funding. These goals are included in the DSU's Request for Proposal which is sent to each CIL that receives Part B IL funds. The CILs must address these goals in their grant proposals. To insure the SILC is informed of all OB activities, quarterly reports from the contractors and the final 7OB report are shared with the SILC and regional VR managers throughout the state.

Additionally the DSU encourages other providers to be sensitive to and aware of the needs of the elderly blind. For example the DSU is an active member of Alaska's Tribal Consortium, (all twelve of Alaska's Tribal VR 121 Programs are represented). The DSU hosts monthly meetings with the Tribal Consortium where much

information is shared, including information regarding the needs of individuals who are elderly and blind or visually impaired. The DSU also meets regularly and often discusses the needs of and services to the elderly blind with their SRC which has strong representation of CILs, Community Rehabilitation Programs and people with disabilities.

On an annual basis the DSU identifies the OB goals that each OB contractor must address in their proposal. Three of the four contractors of OB services are CILs. This enables the DSU to have direct control in the delivery of OB services and allows for consumers to receive services through both the IL and OB programs.

Alaska's SILC has recently developed an Outreach Committee to target needed outreach efforts. Together the SILC and CILs (including CILs that receive Older Independent Blind funds), will be launching a statewide website titled "Alaska Network of Care" in mid 2007. This is an effort to list all independent living and senior and older blind services that are available across the state in each region. It is expected that this website will not only facilitate the flow of information about independent living, older blind and other support services to more communities across the state, but will also help demonstrate the need for services where few presently exist. Additionally the CILs and the other OIB contractor are seeking additional funds to better serve those, including the older blind and visually impaired, who reside in rural and remote areas of Alaska.

The SILC has identified the elderly and seniors in our state as being underserved and/or unserved. All CILs that serve the older blind will be submitting three outreach objectives that may include a description of how they plan to provide services to unserved and underserved populations in their regions.

Community awareness activities to increase the public's general awareness of blindness and its causes, as well as the needs of older blind individuals and services available through the OIB program will be conducted. Isolation and loneliness is an enormous issue for the elderly blind. Newsletters will be written and disseminated throughout the state, community forums will be held and year-round disability awareness and consumer directed personal care educational campaigns will be conducted.

In house seminars or "retreats" will be provided and participants will have opportunities to build partnerships and learn many new skills. Training will include orientation and mobility, activities of daily living, information on eye care and diseases, assistive technology, manual skills and computer usage. These retreats will be provided over a period of days.

Training and peer support meetings will be held at Senior Centers, Independent Living Centers and various community locations throughout the state. Presentations regarding services available to older blind individuals will be made at numerous health fairs and Senior Centers.

Disability awareness campaigns will be conducted in print, radio and display cases throughout regions. Disability Awareness training will also be conducted to students

and employees in the state.

The DSU will work diligently to insure that OIB funds are distributed as needed throughout the state for service delivery purposes.

Section 2: Scope, Extent, and Arrangements of Services

2.1 Scope and Extent – 34 CFR 364.42(b) (2) (3); 34 CFR 364.43(b); 34 CFR 364.59(b)

2.1A Check the appropriate boxes in the SPIL Instrument table indicating the types of IL services to be provided to meet the objectives identified in section 1.2 of this SPIL, and whether the services will be provided by the CILs or by the DSU (directly and/or through contract or grant).

<u>Table 2.1A: Independent living services</u>	<u>Provided by the DSU (directly)</u>	<u>Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant)</u>	<u>Provided by the CILs (Not through DSU contracts/grants)</u>
Core Independent Living Services, as follows:			
Information and referral		X	X
IL skills training		X	X
Peer counseling		X	X
Individual and systems advocacy		X	X
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services		X	X
Services related to securing housing or shelter, including services related to community group living, and supportive of the purposes of this Act and of the titles of this Act, and adaptive housing services (including appropriate accommodations to and modifications of any space used to serve, or occupied by, individuals with significant disabilities)		X	X
Rehabilitation technology		X	X
Mobility training		X	X
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services		X	X
Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services		X	X

Table 2.1A: Independent living services	<u>Provided by the DSU (directly)</u>	<u>Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant)</u>	<u>Provided by the CILs (Not through DSU contracts/ grants)</u>
Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation, accessible transportation and other support services		X	X
Consumer information programs on rehabilitation and IL services available under this Act, especially for minorities and other individuals with disabilities who have traditionally been unserved or underserved by programs under this Act		X	X
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities		X	X
Supported living		X	X
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation		X	X
Physical rehabilitation		X	X
Therapeutic treatment		X	X
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices		X	X
Individual and group social and recreational services		X	X
Training to develop skills specifically designed for youths who are individuals with significant disabilities to promote self-awareness and esteem, develop advocacy and self-empowerment skills, and explore career options		X	X
Services for children with significant disabilities		X	X
Services under other Federal, State, or local programs designed to provide resources, training, counseling, or other assistance of substantial benefit in enhancing the independence, productivity, and quality of life of individuals with significant disabilities		X	X
Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future		X	X

<u>Table 2.1A: Independent living services</u>	<u>Provided by the DSU (directly)</u>	<u>Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant)</u>	<u>Provided by the CILs (Not through DSU contracts/grants)</u>
Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities		X	X
Other necessary services not inconsistent with the Act		X	X

2.1B Describe any service provision priorities, including types of services or populations, established for meeting the SPIL objectives identified in section 1.2.

2.1C If the State allows service providers to charge consumers for the cost of services or to consider the ability of individual consumers to pay for the cost of IL services, specify the types of IL services for which costs may be charged and for which a financial need test may be applied, and describe how the State will ensure that:

- Any consideration of financial need is applied uniformly so that all individuals who are eligible for IL services are treated equally; and
- Written policies and consumer documentation required by 34 CFR 364.59(d) will be kept by the service provider.

Indicate N/A if not applicable. N/A

2.2 Arrangements for State-Provided Services – 34 CFR 364.43(d) and (e)

2.2A If the DSU will provide any of the IL services identified in section 2.1A through grants or contractual arrangements with third parties, describe such arrangements.

2.2B If the State contracts with or awards a grant to a center for the general operation of the center, describe how the State will ensure that the determination of an individual's eligibility for services from that center shall be delegated to the center.

Most Part B and some of the Part II Older Blind funds are contracted to Centers. The grant contracts with the state define eligibility for services and documentation required by each of the contractors. The DSU monitors these contracts and reviews consumer case files during site visits.

Section 3: Design for the Statewide Network of Centers

3.1 Existing Network – 34 CFR 364.25

Provide an overview of the existing network of centers, including non-Part C-funded centers that comply with the standards and assurances in section 725 (b) and (c) of the Act, and the geographic areas and populations currently served by the centers.

Current CIL Network

Alaska has five CIL Regions, but four Centers for Independent Living. Two of these centers receive federal Part C, federal Part B, and state general funds to support their operations and two are funded with Part B and state general funds.

The two federally recognized centers are Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL) and Access Alaska. SAIL's main office is in Juneau with satellite offices in Sitka and Ketchikan. Access Alaska's main office is in Anchorage with satellite offices in Fairbanks and Wasilla. In addition, Access Alaska owns and operates a statewide Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Services business.

Alaska has two federal Part B and state funded CILs. They are Arctic Access and Kenai Peninsula Independent Living Center (KPILC). Arctic Access is a stand-alone CIL run out of one individual's home in Kotzebue, a small community located on the northwest coast of Alaska. The other state funded center is the Kenai Peninsula Independent Living Center in Homer, with satellite offices in Soldotna and Seward.

CIL Regional Descriptions

Overview: As of July, 2006 the State estimates there is a population of 670,053. The state is divided into five CIL Regions, and each of the above Centers is assigned a region they are expected to serve (Access Alaska has two regions). However, given the very rural nature of each region, and the vast distances between roadless towns, how each center serves their region and how they prioritize services is up to their agency. The SILC and DVR, through the State Plan, do not dictate to CILs where to put offices, people or resources. Those decisions are best left to the Board of Directors of each CIL. However, at the very least, each CIL must have a toll-free line for "Information and Referral" services, and a plan identified on how they will attempt to serve underserved or unserved populations in their region. Below are the regional areas of responsibility for each CIL:

Access Alaska Anchorage (Anchorage/Mat-Su/Southwest)

-Encompasses 59.1% of the state's total population. Includes the Municipality of Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Aleutians East Borough, Aleutians West Census Area, Bethel Census Area, Bristol Bay Borough, Dillingham Census Area, Lake & Peninsula Borough, and Wade Hampton Census Area.

Southeast Alaska Independent Living (Southeast)

-Encompasses 10.5% of the state's population. Includes Haines, Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan Boroughs, Prince of Wales Census Area, Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, Yakutat Borough, and Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area.

Access Alaska Fairbanks (Interior and North)

-Encompasses 16.3% of the state's population. Includes Fairbanks Northstar Borough, Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, Denali Borough, and North Slope Borough.

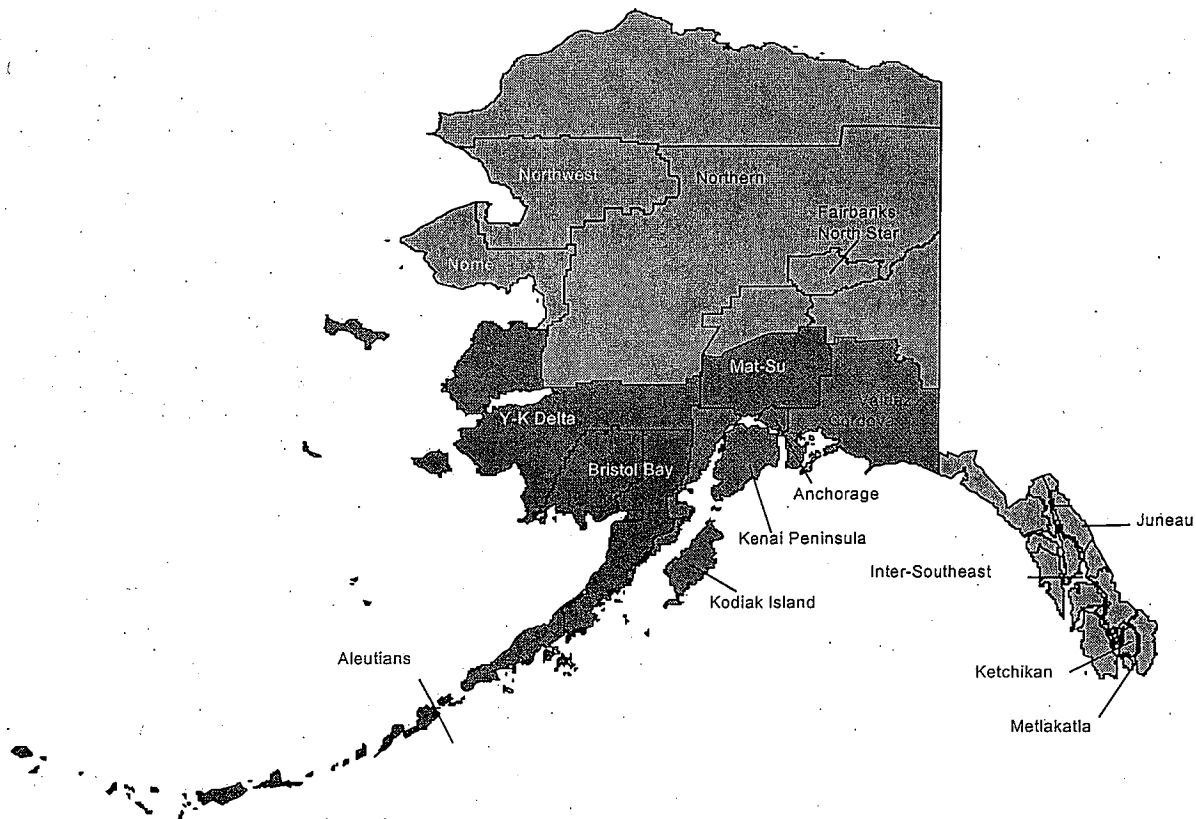
Kenai Peninsula Independent Living Center (Gulf Coast)

-Encompasses 11.1% of the state's population. Includes Kenai Peninsula Borough, Kodiak Island Borough, and Valdez-Cordova Census Area.

Arctic Access (Northwest)

-Encompasses 2.5 % of the state's population. Includes Nome Census Area and Northwest Arctic Borough.

REGIONAL SERVICE AREAS



- ACCESS ALASKA ANCHORAGE
 - SOUTHEAST ALASKA INDEPENDENT LIVING (SAIL)
 - ACCESS ALASKA FAIRBANKS
 - KENAI PENINSULA INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER
 - ARCTIC ACCESS
-

Describe the design for the further expansion of the network, including identification of the unserved and underserved areas in the State and the order of priority for serving these areas as additional funding becomes available (beyond the required cost-of-living increase).

Although the regional service area map on the previous page shows that every area of the state is covered by a CIL, there are gaps in services in remote areas of the state because of the lack of resources. Currently the plans are to support the existing network of centers and further develop resources that allow them to adequately serve their service regions. Additionally, as spelled out in the "Action Plan" the SILC will develop a plan to grow and fund a new Center for Independent Living in a Southwestern Alaska Community. Whether this Center develops out of satellite office of an existing CIL, or is wholly developed as a new entity will be determined through the planning process to be undergone during year one of the SPIL period.

3.3 Section 723 States Only – 34 CFR 364.39

3.3A If the State follows an order of priorities for allocating funds among centers within a State that is different from what is outlined in 34 CFR 366.22, describe the alternate order of priority that the DSU director and the SILC chair have agreed upon. Indicate N/A if not applicable.

3.3B Describe how the State policies, practices and procedures governing the awarding of grants to centers and the oversight of these centers are consistent with 34 CFR 366.37 and 366.38.

N/A – Alaska is not a "723" state.

Section 4: Designated State Unit (DSU)

4.1 Administrative Support Services – 34 CFR 364.4; 34 CFR 364.22(b)

4.1A Describe the administrative support services to be provided by the DSU for the SILS (Part B) program and, if the State is a Section 723 State, for the CIL (Part C) program.

– Refer to the SPIL Instructions for additional information about administrative support services.

4.1B Describe other DSU arrangements for the administration of the IL program, if any.

The DSU provides grant contracts to each of the Centers and monitors those contracts for compliance with state regulations and the federal standards and indicators for Centers for Independent Living. The "state only" funded Centers are held to the same standards as the federally funded Centers.

Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

5.1 Resource plan – 34 CFR 364.21(i)

5.1A Describe the resource plan prepared by the SILC in conjunction with the DSU for the provision of resources, including staff and personnel, made available under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII, section 101(a) (18) of the Act, and from other public and private sources that may be necessary to carry out the functions of the SILC identified in section 705(c). The description must address the three years of this SPIL.

– Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

5.1B Describe how the following SILC resource plan requirements will be addressed:

- The SILC's responsibility for the proper expenditure of funds and use of resources that it receives under the resource plan.*
- Non-inclusion of conditions or requirements in the SILC resource plan that may compromise the independence of the SILC.*
- Reliance, to the maximum extent possible, on the use of resources in existence during the period of implementation of the State plan.*

The SILC will maintain staff and an office commensurate to the efforts necessary to carry out the work of the council. The activities, goals and objectives outlined in the SPIL are based on resources that will be available during the period of implementation of the State Plan. The SILC shall exercise complete authority over its budget according to the SILC's own by-laws, policies and procedures, and in accordance with all applicable state and federal rules, regulations and consistent with grant requirements. The Executive Director of the SILC shall be the administrator of these funds and shall report all revenues and expenditures to the Council. The Executive Director and the Treasurer shall provide at least quarterly financial reports to the Council. The Executive Committee of the Council shall have the authority to act on behalf of the Council in making financial decisions outside the approved budget of the SILC in between full SILC meetings. However, the Executive Committee cannot increase or decrease a budgeted line item of the SILC DVR operating grant by more than 10% (higher or lower), without a majority vote of the SILC and approval by DVR.

By the middle of November of each year, the SILC and DVR shall jointly negotiate a grant to the SILC for the operations of the Council at or near the amounts outlined below. The annual operating grant to the SILC by the DSU shall not include conditions that compromise the independence of the SILC in any way, other than adherence to state and federal law on the proper expenditure and accounting of federal and/or state funds for the operations of the SILC. Sources of funds for the grant may include, but are not limited to: Title I, Sec. 110 DVR funds, Social Security Trust Fund Reimbursements, Title VII-Part B funds, and/or State general fund dollars. The budget year for the SILC shall coincide with the State's fiscal year, July 1 - June 30.

For the fiscal year 2008, (July 1, 2007 -June 30, 2008), based upon current budget estimates, DVR shall provide a grant to the SILC in the anticipated amount of \$176,000 for the operations of the SILC. Of this amount, \$166,000 shall come from Title 1, Sec. 110

DVR funds or Social Security Trust Funds, and \$10,000 will be Title VII, Part B funds. A budget for FY 2008 is included below, along with estimates for FY 09 and FY 10 with a projected 3% increase per year.

SILC Projected Operating Grant Amounts

Description	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10
Personnel	\$ 99,500	\$102,485	\$105,560
Office Expenses	16,750	17,250	17,770
Staff and Board Travel	36,700	37,800	38,935
Contractual & Misc.	22,300	22,970	23,670
Total	\$176,000	\$180,505	\$185,935

5.2 Establishment and Placement – 34 CFR 364.21(a)

Describe how the establishment and placement of the SILC ensures its independence with respect to the DSU and all other State agencies.

Alaska Statute 47.80.300 describes the establishment of the Statewide Independent Living Council. As stated in the law establishing the SILC, "for budgetary purposes, the council is located in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The Department shall provide reasonable and necessary professional and technical assistance when requested by the Council." To maintain and support the independence of the SILC, the Alaska State Independent Living Council, Inc. (SILC) became a non-profit corporation in 2003 to coordinate the functions related to the planning, monitoring, and evaluation of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) as described in Section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended. The SILC adopted its own articles of incorporation, bylaws and policies and procedures that guide the operation and functions of the SILC on a daily basis.

5.3 Appointment and Composition – 34 CFR 364.21(b) – (f)

Describe the process used by the State to appoint members to the SILC who meet the composition requirements in section 705(b).

The Governor is the legal authority to make appointments to the SILC. The Governor makes appointments after seeking input from the SILC itself and other entities in the state that have an interest in the provision of independent living services.

The SILC has a "Membership Application" and makes this available to any interested candidate for serving on the SILC board. Applicants provide to the SILC a completed application and completed applications are distributed to the full SILC board (voting and non-voting). The SILC then reviews applications and makes recommendations for new members to the Governor along with recommendations for reappointment of members whose terms are coming to a close.

The SILC Executive Committee serves as the "Nominations Committee" for the purposes of making recommendations to the full SILC for consideration. However, the full SILC, at a

duly constituted meeting, shall study the recommendations of the Executive Committee and either confirm or adjust the slate of nominees to forward to the Governor after reviewing all applications. In reviewing applications, the SILC may decide to interview potential members in person or by phone at the SILC's expense. Member applications shall be reviewed by the SILC for compliance with Sec. 705 of the Rehabilitation Act and as such applications will be screened for the following qualifications:

- Does the applicant help the SILC provide statewide representation?
- Does the applicant help the SILC represent a broad range of individuals with disabilities from diverse backgrounds?
- Is the applicant knowledgeable about centers for independent living and independent living services?
- Is the applicant a person with a disability and not employed by any State agency or center for independent living?

In general, the process for recruiting, interviewing and nominating potential members shall be an annual process and begin no later than the spring meeting of the Council (April/May). The process shall conclude no later than the fall meeting (Aug/Sept) of the SILC and the Council will then forward its recommendations to the Governor for consideration and appointment. Upon being appointed by the Governor each member is assigned an appointment date and is appointed for no more than three years. Each member can serve up to two three year terms. Appointment dates and term limitations are managed by the Governor's office and duplicate records are also kept by the SILC.

5.4 Staffing – 34 CFR 364.21(j)

Describe how the following SILC staffing requirements will be met:

- *SILC supervision and evaluation, consistent with State law, of its staff and other personnel as may be necessary to carry out its functions.*
- *Non-assignment of duties to SILC staff and other personnel made available by the DSU, or any other State agency or office that would create a conflict of interest while assisting the SILC in carrying out its duties.*

As a duly constituted private non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Alaska the SILC has sole authority over staffing and organizational structure. The SILC Board has responsibility for hiring and evaluating the performance of the Executive Director and the Executive Director has this responsibility for all other SILC staff, including contractors. The SILC Executive Committee conducts the E.D. evaluation once per year and makes a recommendation to the full board on whether to extend, modify, or terminate the employee contract with the Executive Director. Both the SILC Board and the Executive Director are guided by the organization's Personnel Policies.

Section 6: Service Provider Requirements

Describe how the following service provider requirements will be met:

6.1 Staffing – 34 CFR 364.23; 34 CFR 364.24; 34 CFR 364.31

- *Inclusion of personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of IL services and in the development and support of centers.*
- *Availability, to the maximum extent feasible, of personnel able to communicate (1) with individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication, such as manual communication, nonverbal communication devices, Braille, or audio tapes and (2) in the native languages of individuals with significant disabilities whose English proficiency is limited and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act.*
- *Establishment and maintenance of a program of staff development for all classes of positions involved in providing IL services and, where appropriate, in administering the CIL program, improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of IL services, including knowledge of and practice in the IL philosophy.*
- *Affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with significant disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act.*

These service provider requirements are included in the grant contracts for all CILs and other providers and verified through the evaluation and site review process described in Section 7.

6.2 Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting – 34 CFR 364.34

- *Adoption of those fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of and accounting for funds made available through parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act, in addition to complying with applicable EDGAR fiscal and accounting requirements.*

These service provider requirements are included in the grant contracts for all CILs and other providers and verified through the evaluation and site review process described in Section 7.

6.3 Record-Keeping, Access and Reporting – 34 CFR 364.35; 34 CFR 364.36; 34 CFR 364.37

- *Maintenance of records that fully disclose and document the information listed in 34 CFR 364.35.*
- *Submission of annual performance and financial reports, and any other reports that the Secretary determines to be appropriate*
- *Access to the Commissioner and the Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations, and compliance reviews, to the information listed in 34 CFR 364.37.*

These service provider requirements are included in the grant contracts for all CILs and other providers and verified through the evaluation and site review process described in Section 7. In addition, all CILs and service providers provide quarterly financial, statistical and narrative reports to the DSU.

6.4 Eligibility – 34 CFR 364.40; 34 CFR 364.41

- *Eligibility of any individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs.*
- *Ability of any individual to seek information about IL services under these programs and to request referral to other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities.*
- *Determination of an individual's eligibility for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs in a manner that meets the requirements of 34 CFR 364.51.*
- *Application of eligibility requirements without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion, or type of significant disability of the individual applying for IL services.*
- *Non-exclusion from receiving IL services of any individual who is present in the State and who is otherwise eligible for IL services, based on the imposition of any State or local residence requirement.*

These service provider requirements are included in the grant contracts for all CILs and other providers and verified through the evaluation and site review process described in Section 7.

6.5 Independent Living Plans – 34 CFR 364.43(c)

- *Provision of IL services in accordance with an IL plan complying with Sec. 364.52 and mutually agreed upon by the individuals with significant disabilities and the appropriate service provider staff unless the individual signs a waiver stating that an IL plan is unnecessary.*

All CILs and other providers develop an IL Plan in cooperation with each consumer that a Consumer Service Record (CSR) is opened unless it is waived by the individual in which a signed copy of the waiver is placed in the CSR. This information is verified as part of the site review process described in Section 7.

6.6 Client Assistance Program (CAP) Information – 34 CFR 364.30

- *Use of accessible formats to notify individuals seeking or receiving IL services under chapter 1 of title VII about the availability of the CAP program, the purposes of the services provided under the CAP, and how to contact the CAP.*

All CILs and other contractors notify clients of their rights under the law and make available to them a copy of a current brochure or other information on how to contact Alaska's Client Assistance Program. This information is verified as part of the site review process described in Section 7.

6.7 Protection, Use and Release of Personal Information – 34 CFR 364.56(a)

- *Adoption and implementation of policies and procedures meeting the requirements of 34 CFR 364.56(a), to safeguard the confidentiality of all personal information, including photographs and lists of names.*

All CILs and other contractors have policies and procedures in place that safeguard the confidentiality of all personal information regarding clients. These are reviewed as part of the site review process described in Section 7.

Section 7: Evaluation

Describe the method that will be used to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the plan in meeting the objectives established in Section 1. The description must include the State's evaluation of satisfaction by individuals with significant disabilities who have participated in the program. 34 CFR 364.38

As outlined in section 705 - C (2) and 34 CFR 364.21(g) (2), the SILC's responsibility is in monitoring, reviewing, and evaluating the implementation of the State Plan for Independent Living. In doing so, the SILC has a responsibility to monitor, review and evaluate its own activities as it relates to the State Plan for Independent Living (Annual 704 Report and Report to the Governor), the independent living activities of DVR, and the activities of CILs funded under the SPIL.

There are three components of evaluation included in the SPIL which are as follows:

(a) Evaluation of SILC Activities

The SILC shall conduct five activities as it relates to the evaluation of the State Plan for Independent Living.

(1) Periodic Review of SILC Objectives.

Through the State Plan process the SILC has established specific activities and objectives for the Council itself. The SILC shall conduct quarterly reviews of progress made toward accomplishing these goals and objectives and report them to the full council at quarterly meetings, and make them available to the public in accessible formats. These progress reports will primarily be accomplished by SILC subcommittee chairs, who exercise major responsibility in overseeing the specific goals and objectives.

(2) Annual 704 Report

In partnership with DVR, the SILC will help in drafting the annual 704 Report, Part I. The final report must be signed by the Chairperson of the SILC and the Director of DVR, and then submitted to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) not more than 90 days after the end of the federal fiscal year (Dec. 30). In addition, the two federally funded CILs in Alaska shall submit copies of their 704 Report, Part II to the SILC and DVR at the time they submit them to RSA. Copies of the 704 reports will be made available to members of the SILC and other interested persons upon request.

(3) Annual Report to the Governor

The SILC will annually prepare a report to the Governor of Alaska, with distribution to Alaskan Legislators, key state policy makers and other interested parties, by February 15 of each year. This report will combine statistical, narrative and fiscal information from Alaska's 704 Report, Part I, and Part II reports filed independently by the federally funded CILs. This report shall illustrate and highlight successes and challenges in regards to independent living issues in Alaska, as well as provide recommendations from the SILC to address the unmet independent living needs of Alaskans with disabilities.

(4) Public Input

The SILC primarily accomplishes this objective through publicized hearings at quarterly SILC meetings. Also, the SILC will publicize input and data gathered from consumers by other entities in the State, and participate in consumer forums conducted by such groups as the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, the Commission on Aging, the Alaska Mental Health Trust, NAMI chapters, etc.

(5) Consumer Satisfaction Survey

The SILC will work with the Centers in an effort to distribute consumer satisfaction surveys to all CIL consumers on an ongoing basis with return surveys being collected and analyzed by the SILC on an annual basis. Additionally, consumers will have the option to use a web based survey tool hosted on the SILC website. Information gathered from this survey and other forums will be used to amend the SPIL as needed and to prepare the next three-year SPIL.

(b) Evaluation of DVR Activities

The SILC and DVR shall periodically review the activities and objectives included in the SPIL, Attachment 1, which are the primary responsibility of DVR and report on them in the same manner as in A.1 above.

(c) Evaluation of CILs

The SILC recognizes that its primary role is evaluating and monitoring the effectiveness of the State Plan, while DVR's role is as legal and fiduciary agent for state independent living and federal funds. However, the effectiveness of the SPIL is dependent in large part on the successful activities of CILs funded under the SPIL. Therefore, the SILC shall partner with the Division in reviewing the CIL's grant proposals and conducting the on-site reviews of CILs.

(1) Proposal Evaluation Committee (PEC)

A joint SILC/DVR Proposal Evaluation Committee shall review and

recommend funding for all CIL continuation grant applications pursuant to the SPIL's "CIL Resource Allocation Plan". All grantees will be required to provide quarterly and annual fiscal, statistical and narrative reports to DVR and the SILC. These reports will be available for review by any member of the SILC, the public, or other entities. Copies of all grant applications, continuation proposals; quarterly and final reports will be available in DVR's Central Office (Juneau), and the offices of the SILC (Anchorage).

The Director of DVR will appoint one primary member of the PEC and one alternate. The SILC Chair will also appoint one primary member and one alternate. The DVR Director and SILC Chair may also appoint one additional primary member, jointly agreed upon by both. No one can be appointed to the PEC who has a real or perceived conflict of interest. If a conflict of interest develops after the initial appointment of the member, the member must declare their potential conflict to the PEC Team Leader. All PEC meetings will be open to the public.

(2) Grantee Site Reviews

- (i) State Initiated Site Reviews:** Site reviews are an intensive evaluation of a grantee's operations and performance in accordance with the grant requirements. Site reviews also include a review of the adopted federal Standards and Assurances for CILs. Site visits will be conducted at least once every three years for all grantees of \$25,000 or more, unless a federal site review has been completed in the prior 12 months, in which case the federal site review will suffice for a state site review. The Director of DVR may authorize additional site reviews of CILs as necessary to protect the integrity and quality of independent living services in the state. All expenses and arrangements related to conducting grantee site reviews will be paid for by DVR. The Director of DVR shall invite the SILC to include SILC members and/or staff on Site Review Teams (SRT) for the purposes of providing appropriate technical assistance.

SILC membership on the site review team will consist of the Executive Director or his/her designee. The Director of DVR shall select two employees to serve on an SRT, typically the DVR Grant Administrator and the Regional Office Manager. In addition, the state shall invite at least one peer reviewer, i.e. a staff person from another CIL (in or out of state) and one CIL consumer to participate in site reviews.

DVR shall conduct the paperwork review process, (i.e. a standard review of all legal, corporate, fiscal documents), before the site review itself by asking CILs to provide copies of all required documentation at least 30 days in advance. A concerted effort will be made to request and review changes in policy and direction and progress made on recommendations from the last

site review. DVR shall provide a written report to the Director of the CIL and the Board President no later than 90 days after the completion of the site review.

- (ii) **Federally initiated Site Reviews:** Site reviews of Title VII Part C funded CILs are occasionally initiated by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). RSA shall invite representatives of DVR and the SILC to participate in Site Review Teams. The SILC's role shall be to provide appropriate technical assistance. RSA is asked to send copies of all reports related to site reviews in Alaska to the CIL director and Board President, DVR and the SILC, and provide these reports no later than 90 days after the completion of a site review. SILC representative(s) on a federal site review team will also provide a report to the SILC.

Section 8: State-Imposed Requirements

Identify any State-imposed requirements contained in the provisions of this SPIL. Indicate N/A if not applicable. 34 CFR 364.20(h)

Fifth Core Service - The Alaska SILC and DVR have adopted a fifth core service required of any Center for Independent Living accepting state funds for center operations. This fifth core service is deinstitutionalization, or transitioning of persons living in nursing homes or other institutions to home and community based settings.

CIL Consumer Service Fund

All CILs will document the amount of funds spent annually for the direct purchase of requested consumer services. The funds used can be a combination of IL funds, unrestricted funds and/or other pass through funds from different grants. CILs will use a line item in the budget for this documentation. Direct consumer services are goods and/or services purchased from other entities on behalf of a consumer, such as purchasing mobility training from the Alaska Center for Blind and Visually Impaired, buying or renting assistive technology for the consumer, transportation services, personal care services, supplies to build a ramp, etc. The fund may also include direct financial assistance to consumers that aid in their opportunity to live independently, (e.g. helping a consumer pay for a deposit on an apartment, buying furniture, paying for food and household items, purchasing adaptive equipment for recreation, etc).

CILs will also be required to have clear policies and procedures as to how consumers access their agency's Consumer Services.